

Where to from here?

The time to vote is almost upon us so where to from here? The satisfaction rating of the current council is indeed high and so it should be. In general, this and preceding councils have indeed performed well and they should be recognized for that. We can currently see that they are doing community based tasks like road works, especially in the last few weeks, and other high visibility repair and maintenance jobs to show people that they are indeed worthy of re-election, but, and it's a big but, how are they paying for all the work. I hate to harp on about the size of the debt but it is big and the debt is getting bigger. This council has made several strange decisions of late, decisions made without consulting user groups, about big budget items that will drive us deeper into debt and still no idea on how to pay for them. I would suggest that the new council must put all major projects on hold until the ways and means of paying the debt are resolved. I am sure that there are a few financially qualified people amongst the ratepayers of Wodonga who would assist on a voluntary basis (we can't afford to pay them), if required, our own council officers to clarify our financial situation. The new council must also look at the planned closures of the Stanley St Pool and the Wodonga Livestock Exchange with a new perspective; it is just not economically sound judgment to close either facility under the current financial climate. The costs of building monuments to poor judgment such as the proposed Aquatic Center and Nth Barnawartha Livestock Exchange and Feedlot will only increase and to get these projects in under budget will mean making cuts. This will compromise the integrity of those projects and deliver something much less than we are told will be provided.

Authorised By:
Edward Foulston
18 Ruby Rd
Wodonga